

BLM WH&B NEWS

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Contact:

Chris Tincher
405-790-1009
405-826-3036 cell



WILD HORSE & BURRO ADOPTION LAST ADOPTION IN TEXAS THIS FISCAL YEAR

(Wichita Falls, Texas – April 24-26, 2003). Don't miss the last wild horse and burro adoption to be held in Texas this fiscal year. Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, this event takes place April 25 and 26 at the J.S. Bridwell Ag. Center Arena in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Bureau of Land Management will not return to Texas until October.

The public is encouraged to attend this April event to meet with the wild horse and burro crew and past adopters to learn first hand about the positive experience gained from caring for one of these living legends.

There will be about 80 wild horses, including 60 yearlings (young horses) and 20 burros available for adoption.

Doors open Thursday afternoon, April 24, from 4 to 6 p.m. allowing for a preview of the animals and again on Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Stop in early to learn what it takes to adopt a wild horse or burro. The oral competitive bid to adopt an animal starts promptly at 10 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. The minimum bid for any animal is \$125. All animals must be picked up by 1 p.m. on Sat. in an approved trailer.

To qualify, bidders must be at least 18 years of age, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. For more information call the Bureau of Land Management toll free at **1-866-4-Mustangs**, or visit the web site at www.wildhorseandburro.gov. Applications are also available at the arena during the adoption event. Wild Horse and Burro Specialists will be on hand to guide individuals through the adoption process.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild-Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.